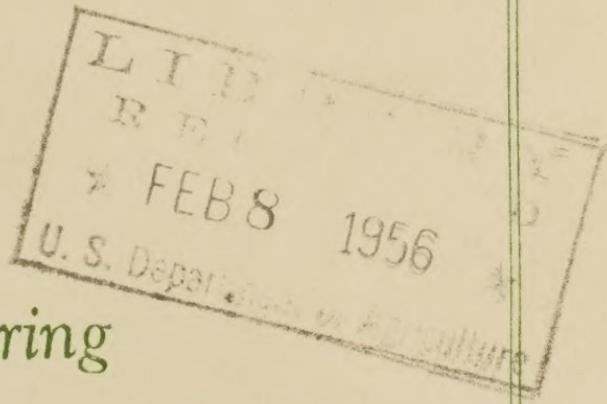


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# Ruth Hardy's Wildflower Nursery

Falls Village, Conn.



Spring

and

Fall



# Ruth Hardy's Wildflower Nursery

Falls Village, Conn.

*RUTH HARDY—Horticulturist & Consultant*  
*Route 7 South Canaan Road*  
*Telephone TAylor 4-5685*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

No order less than \$2.00. Each order personally packed. Will replace without charge stock that is not in good condition, provided you let me know at once. If plants shipped express, charges collect. If by mail postage with remittance is 10% East of Mississippi, 20% West of Mississippi.

To all my old customers and new, my aim is conservation. When I know of an area being devastated by steam shovels and bulldozers I try to save some of the many wild plants being destroyed, by bringing them into the nursery for propagation.

*Visitors are welcome.*

# Wildflowers

## Anemone, False Rue

*Amonella thalictroides*

Dainty leaves, 3-6 inches tall. White flowers, one of early spring blossomers. Easily grown, partial shade. Tiny bulbs, plant shallow.

## Arbutus

*Epigaea repens*

We have only a very limited supply of this beautiful and famous wildflower. Since few people have luck growing it, and it requires acid soil, we hope you won't order it unless you have the proper habitat. Partial shade is best. Don't permit to dry out the first season. Only one plant to a customer.

\$1.00 each.

## Baneberry, Red

*Actea rubra*

White feathery blossom cluster in May, coral red, oval berries; 2-3 feet. Shade or partial shade, damp or dry sites.

## Baneberry, White

Similar to red, as to foliage, but berries white, likened to doll's eyes. Same site conditions and size as the red baneberry, but blooms a little later. Poisonous to eat.

## Bishop's Cap, Mitrewort

*Mitella diphylla*

Pencil-thin flower stalks with tiny cap-shaped blossoms. April to May, 8-16 in. Good ground cover and rock garden plant. Easy to grow.

## Bloodroot

*Sanguinaria canadensis*

Snow-white large flowers with golden centers in spring; plant 8 in. tall. Heart-shaped leaves persist all summer. Dry, to slightly moist neutral soil, shade.

35c each.

## **Bluebells of Scotland**

*Campanula rotundifolia*

Grows almost anywhere, very hardy, easy to raise. Dainty, very attractive little blue bells in late summer. 1-1½ ft. tall. Prefers sun.

## **Bonset, Thoroughwort**

*Equatorium perfoliatum*

Wet soil plant, 2-4 ft. tall. White terminal blossoms in August and September. Interesting leaves seem to grow through the stems. Old medicinal plant.

## **Canada Mayflower**

*Maianthemum canadense*

A small shade loving plant. The leaves are usually heart-shaped at the base, the flowers are white, on small spikes which look feathery. The attractive berries are yellowish-white spotted with brown from Aug. to Sept., turning a translucent rich red Sept. to Oct. Prefer slightly acid soil.

## **Cardinal Flower**

*Lobelia cardinalis*

The brightest red in nature are these blossoms, Aug. to Sept. Prefers damp soil and sun, but will grow on drier, shadier sites. 2-4 ft. tall. Fertilized by humming birds. Seed and rootstock regeneration.

## **Clintonia Bluebeard**

*Clintonia borealis*

Leaves 5 to 8 in., often flat on ground, shiny, resemble showy orchis leaves. Blossoms yellow, in terminal cluster 6 to 16 in. above ground, bell-shaped, ¾ in. long, in June. Striking true blue berries by late summer. Shade. Good fern companion.

### Cohash, Blue

*Caulophyllum thalictroides*

Compound leaf at top of long stem, 1-3 ft. tall. Small yellow flowers; intensely blue berries by late summer. Shade. Good fern companion.

### Columbine, Wild

*Aquilegia canadensis*

Excellent rock garden plant, but grows almost anywhere. Red and yellow spurred flowers May to June, stay in blossom several weeks. 1-1½ ft. 35c each.

### Dutchman's Breeches

*Dicentra cucullaria*

A dainty spring wildflower. Neutral soil, 4 to 7 inches high.

### Foamflower, False Mitrewort

*Tiarella cordifolia*

Attractive ground cover for shady places. Runner roots, leaves maple-shaped, blossoms in white feathery spikes from May to June. Leaves 4 to 8 in. high, blossom spikes 4 to 6 in. higher. 35c each.

### Forget-me-not

*Myosotis scorpioides*

This garden escape is now considered a wild flower of our swamps and streams. The blossoms are ¼ in. broad on loose, curving racemes, light blue with yellow eyes from May to July. Requires moist soil and sun.

### Gentian, Bottle

*Gentiana andersonii*

Several bottle-shaped, intense blue flowers in terminal and leaf-base clusters in late summer. Perennial. Damp, partial shade, also like sun if soil wet. 12-18 in. tall.

### **Joe Pye Weed**

*Eupatorium purpureum*

Large, moist soil plant, 3-7 ft. tall, raspberry-red blossoms in top clusters. Open sun, blooms in August. Good near pools as tall background.

### **Lily, Meadow**

*Lilium canadense*

Orange lilies with purple-brown spots inside. One to seven or more blossoms, 2-4 ft. tall. Open sun, moist to drier soil.

### **Lobelia, Blue**

*Lobelia syphilitica*

Similar to Cardinal Flower in form and growth requirements, but the blossoms are a handsome purplish-blue. July to Sept.

### **Maarsh Marigold, Cowslip**

*Caltha palustris*

Leaves round or kidney-shaped, edible raw or cooked. Blossoms bright yellow, similar to buttercup but larger, from April to May. Moist soil essential, and prefers sun. Good around ponds and in brooks. 35c each.

### **Mayapple, Mandrake**

*Podophyllum peltatum*

Umbrella-like leaves form elevated ground carpet. Waxy, white flowers underneath, Apr. to May produce apple-like berry. 1-2 ft.

### **New England Aster**

*Aster novaeangliae*

A tall, sturdy wild aster with terminal clusters of many-rayed purple blossoms Aug. to Sept. From 2-6 ft. tall, in open sun, neutral to sweet, even poor soil. Good background in cultivated flower garden.

**Rue, Early Meadow** *Thalictrum dioicum*  
A dainty, slender plant with scalloped leaves and small greenish-white flowers in terminal clusters, Apr. to May. Similar to Tall Meadow Rue but smaller. Good company for medium-sized ferns. Likes a little shade but will grow in the sun.

### **Rue, Tall Meadow**

*Thalictrum polygamum*

Misty white flowers, tall slender branches, July to Sept. Prefers damp meadows, but grows almost anywhere. Excellent in with large ferns.

**Saxifrage, Rock** *Saxifraga virginiensis*  
A small rock plant which likes dry sites. Prefers sun; stands partial shade if dry. Leaves a rosette close to ground. Small white flowers in clusters, stems 3 to 9 inches high.

### **Saxifrage, Swamp**

*Saxifraga pensylvanica*

Leaves much larger than above species; make interesting cover for wet spots. Flowers greenish-white, not as attractive as above species, stems 12 to 30 in. high. Sun or partial shade.

**Snakeroot, Black** *Cimicifuga racemosa*  
A very large and striking woodland plant, excellent to mix with large ferns, or as a background. Compound, sharply-toothed leaves form rather heavy foliage that attains 3 to 7 ft. height. Feathery white flowers 6 to 20 in. branched, wand-like spikes, June to July. 50c each.

### **Solomon's Seal, False**

*Smilacina racemosa*

White fluffy blossoms at tip of stem, in May producing white-and-red, then translucent berries. 1-3 ft., shade or sun.

### **Solomon's Seal, Giant**

*Polygonatum commutatum*

Very graceful, 2-4 ft. tall, bell-like blossoms pendulous under the leaves in June; large purple-blue berries. Partial shade to sun.

### **Solomon's Seal, True**

*Polygonatum biflorum*

Very similar to the Giant variety, but smaller, and likes more shade. 1-2 ft., blooms May to June, dark blue berries in early fall.

### **Star Grass, Yellow**

*Hypoxis hirsuta*

Grass-like leaves; flower stems arise in the center, 2 to 6 in. high, bearing one to seven deep yellow,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. blossoms. Likes dry soil in sun or semi-shade.

### **Trillium, Painted**

*Trillium undulatum*

White, with crimson stripe, May to June. 8-16 in. Likes shade and borders of woodlands, and must have acid soil.

(See page 17 on Planting hints) 50c each

### **Trillium, Red Wakerobin**

*Trillium erectum*

Leaves broad and abruptly pointed. Flowers a maroon red, petals  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, on a reclining stem, blooming in April to May. Dark red seed pods. Shady sites; prefers damp soil but will grow on upland soil.

### **Trillium, Snow**

*Trillium grandiflorum*

Blossoms late May to June, white turning to pink. 10-18 in. high, petals 2-3 in. long. Moist, partial shade, good neutral garden soil. Excellent in flower borders, occurs in open woodlands.

## Twisted Stalk

*Streptopus roseus*

Interesting zig-zag stem, with bell-shaped tiny white to pinkish blossoms in June. A handsome red berry for each blossom late summer to early fall. Cold, damp woods. Plant 1½ to 3 ft. tall.

## Violet, Bird-foot

*Viola pedata*

The leaves are finely divided. The blossoms are the largest of the violets, from 1 to 1½ in. across; light violet with orange-tipped stamens, May-June. The plant grows from 4 to 10 inches in height and insists upon dry sandy soil and open sun.

## Violet, Canada

*Viola canadensis*

One of our tallest violets, sweet-scented, light purple outside, white inside; blossoms a little later than above species. Partial shade to sun; 5-15 in. tall.

## Violet, Downy Yellow

*Viola pubescens*

Leaves are downy beneath, golden yellow flowers in May, plant 6-12 in. tall. Dry shady sites, rock gardens.

## Violet, Palmate-leaved

*Viola palmata*

Unusually deep lobed leaves for a violet plant. Flowers bright, light violet and fairly large in early summer. Dry ground, shade or sun.

## Violet, Smooth Yellow

*Viola scabriuscula*

Two to four stems from one rootstock. More slender and not quite as tall as the Downy Yellow. Blossoms April to early May, prefers shade.

# Ferns

## Beech Fern, Broad

*Dryopteris hexagonoptera*

Winged woodfern. Triangular fronds. Shade or partial shade, damp to dryer sites, neutral soil. Height 12-18 in.

## Beech Fern, Narrow

*Phegopteris polypodioides*

Triangle-shaped fronds, 3 to 10 in. long. Succession of fronds all season, only one frond present at a time. Creeping rootstocks. Bottom pair of pinnae grow downward, and outward. Moist to fairly dry sites; prefers shade, but will grow in sun if not too dry.

## Bladder, Berry

*Cystopteris bulbifera*

Brookside, damp shade. Graceful, slender fern, 2-3 ft., half reclining.

## Bladder, Fragile

*Cystopteris fragilis*

More delicate than above, and about one-third in size. Dormant in August. An early fern, loves rocks.

## Christmas Fern

*Polystichum acrostichoides*

Evergreen fronds up to 20 inches long. Likes good shade, enough moisture. Plant the crowns even with ground surface. Indoor boxes.

## Cinnamon Fern

*Osmunda cinnamomea*

One of our largest ferns, attaining 3-5 ft. Husky fronds, attractive, cinnamon-colored fertile frond arises from center of the plant. Excellent background. Shade or semi-shade.

60c each.

## **Clinton Fern**

*Dryopteris clintoniana*

An evergreen, preferring shade or partial shade. Attains 2-3 ft. Likes slightly acid to neutral soil.

## **Crested Shield Fern**

*Dryopteris cristata*

Usually found on hummocks in partially shaded bogs. 1/3 ft., the sterile fronds are evergreen.

## **Evergreen Woodfern**

*Dryopteris marginalis*

Leathery, evergreen, dark blue-green. Deep shade, likes loose stones in the soil. 2 ft. tall. Indoor boxes.

## **Interrupted Fern**

*Osmunda claytoniana*

One of our large native ferns, often confused with Cinnamon Fern. Spore cases occur along center of fertile fronds, giving interrupted appearance.                           60c each.

## **Lady Fern**

*Athrium felixfemina*

An easy fern to grow, 2-3 ft., partial shade or full shade. Dry or damp soil. Fronds grow in circular tufts from large rootstock.

## **Maidenhair Fern**

*Adiantum pedatum*

Slender, wiry stems, topped by delicate, unique fronds, each tiny part like a gingko tree leaf. Likes rotted hardwood leaves. Shade.

## **Marsh Fern**

*Dryopteris thelypteris*

Medium-sized fern, 10-20 in. Very upright, likes moist meadow lands.

## New York Fern

*Dryopteris noveboracensis*

Medium size, noticeable tapering at both ends of the fronds. Prefers shade, but will grow in sun, 1-2 ft. tall. Damp or dry sites.

25c each

## Oak Fern

*Phegopteris dryopteris*

Small, triangular fronds, 4 to 6 in. wide and high, yellow green. Likes shady pine, hemlock and spruce woods. Spreading rootstock, new fronds all summer.

## Ostrich Fern

*Pteritis nodulosa*

Tall, plume-like fronds in almost a perfect circle. Does very well under cultivation, loves lawns under tall trees.

## Polypody Fern

*Polopodium vulgare*

A small evergreen fern, used in indoor dishes. 3-6 in. Shade. Forms mats on rocks.

## Purple Cliff Brake

*Pallaea atropurpurea*

Leathery-leaved, long, slender, blue-green fronds. Prefers rock niches, especially limestone, evergreen. At its best in winter. 4-10 in. long. Pinnules heart-shaped at base.

## Rattlesnake Fern

*Botrychium virginianum*

Occurs in dry, open woods. Triangular fronds, finely cut, delicate. 1-2 ft. tall.

## Royal Fern

*Osmunda regalis*

Either moist or dry sites, sun or shade, but best grown in partial shade, where some dampness. Graceful, wide spreading, 2-3 ft. tall.

## Sensitive Fern

*Onoclea sensibilis*

One of the easiest to grow, good cover for bare spots, 8-16 in., spreads rapidly.

## Spinulose Fern

*Dryopteris spinulosa*

Medium size. Extensively used with cut flowers. Shade to partial shade.

## Spleenwort, Ebony

*Asplenium platyneuron*

Shaded rocks, especially limestone. Excellent for indoor dishes. Evergreen sterile fronds, 4-8 inches. Sun or shade.

## Spleenwort, Silvery

*Athrium acrostichoides*

Fruit dots on back of fronds have a silvery sheen. Two to three feet tall. Roots spread moderately. Rich, moist woods sites; likes vicinity of shaded streams and swamps.

## Walking Fern

*Camptosorus rhizophyllus*

Has a fascinating way of producing new plants by growing from the leaf tips. Some shade, prefers limestone rocks. 4-12 in. We send small piece of limestone with each plant; place under roots.

## Woodsia, Common, Blunt-lobed Woodsia

*Woodsia obtusa*

Bright sun to partial shade. Usually occurs on rocks. 6-20 in.

## Woodsia, Rusty

*Woodsia ilvensis*

A dry rock fern that likes open sun. Plant in rock crevices with a tiny bit of soil.

## **PLANTING HINTS**

### **FERNS**

Don't plant any of the ferns deep. They want their crowns slightly above the soil surface. Because they grow so near the top they will have to be pressed down the first spring or two because of frost heave; eventually they get a firm hold and stay down themselves.

### **ROCK FERNS**

Ferns such as the Polypody should be held in place for a few weeks until they have had a chance to get a toehold without their roots drying out. This is easily done by placing a few small stones on them. Hold a fern in a rock crevice with a small stone until it has taken hold.

Remember — Natures plants will thrive under adverse conditions, during the open winter, drought and flood.

Native plants furnish much interest and satisfaction to those who follow nature's lead. She cooperates.

## THE CHANCES OF SURVIVAL

May we suggest, in the interest of conservation, that you buy at least three of one kind of wildflower. When you buy only one of a kind, cross pollination cannot take place. Also, it has been our experience that wildflowers seem to want the company of their own kind. One lone plant either doesn't live long or it survives in a weak sort of way, even in the best habitat. Two do a little better, but still not as well as they should. A cluster of no less than three seems to be the best assurance of survival, assuming, of course, that other factors are suitable such as soil, moisture and shade conditions.

If your plant budget is limited, it is better to buy three or more of one or two kinds now, and add to your variety later, than to buy one of six different kinds. We have no rules about this; you are free to make your own choice. But for the sake of the wildflowers and their future, this is our advice.

## WILDFLOWER SEEDS

Many requests come in for wildflower seeds. But we make no attempt to carry them for many and justifiable reasons. Very few wildflower seeds produce plants which will develop blossoms in less than three years. Most of these seeds take their time germinating, often not sprouting for three or four or even more years. Once they do sprout they take that many more years to reach blossoming size. They are children of Nature, untamed like the cultivated garden seeds; and Nature is never in a hurry. Some of the Ladyslippers, for instance, don't reach blossoming stage until twelve years after the seeds germinate and that's not counting how long it takes for the seeds to make up their minds to sprout. Experiments with wild seeds have shown that they remain viable in the soil for at least 53 years.

To add to the difficulties, the seeds must be protected from small wild rodents, from drying out, drowning, or blowing away over the years. Soil acidity, moisture and light conditions must be right for germinating or the seeds will wait yet another year. Only botanists and nursery people usually have such patience and can give the necessary care.

Some concerns do offer wildflower seeds. We have tried them and found they are weed species such as clover, the hawkweeds, Queen Anne's lace, the goldenrods and field dasies. The only satisfactory way we know of obtaining the desirable decorative wildflowers is to buy the plants. Then you know what you have, and you don't wait a decade for them.

Prices, except where otherwise noted are:

50c each singly

3-9 plants of a kind 45c each

10-24 plants of a kind 40c each

Ruth Hardy's

Wildflower Nursery

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